

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the lower packing ~~[(3)]~~ part is of greater density and has a larger surface area than the ~~overlying packings (3)~~ upper packing part.

5. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the packing layers ~~[(4b)]~~ of higher surface area have a surface area that is 2 ~~[[to 10]]~~ times the gross specific surface area of the other packing layers ~~[(4)]~~.

6. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that two~~ wherein the packing layers ~~[(4b)]~~ of greater surface area are mounted arrayed in pairs in which they lie directly against each other and between these pairs of layers of greater surface area there are 1 to 10 ~~, preferably 3 to 6~~ ~~layers (4a)~~ layers ~~[(4a)]~~ with a smaller surface area.

7. (currently amended) The stacked packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the packing layers

[[(4b)]] with the larger surface area are made of materials that have perforations ~~, in particular expanded metal or wire mesh.~~

8. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that both packing types (4a and 4) all the layers~~ have at their lower regions over about 10 to 50% of their height perforations in greater number [[and/]] or of greater diameter that permit passing of fluid ~~from the narrow interstices into the wider passages.~~

9. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that the wherein~~ a free flow cross section is about 5 to 20% of the overall surface area of the packing layer.

10. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that wherein~~ the tight packing layers [[(4b)]] project downward from a lower face of the lower packing [[(3)]] about 2 to 100 mm ~~, preferably 5 to 40 mm.~~

11. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 14 ~~, characterized in that wherein~~ the packing layers [[(4b)]] of greater surface area project at their lower ends about 2 to [[100]] 50 mm, ~~preferably 5 to 40 mm,~~ and are set at their upper ends about 2 to 100 mm ~~, preferably 5 to 40 mm,~~ deeper than the other packing layers [[(4a)]].

12 - 13. (canceled)

1 14. (new) A stacked packing for a heat-exchange or
2 mass-transfer column, the packing comprising
3 a horizontal upper packing part; and
4 a horizontal lower packing part below the upper part and
5 formed of a plurality of upright layers, some of the layers of the
6 lower part being of substantially greater density and having a
7 greater surface area than others of the layers.

1 15. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 14
2 wherein the layers are transverse to the horizontal.

1 16. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 15
2 wherein the layers are perpendicular to the horizontal.

1 17. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 15
2 wherein the layers extend vertically through the lower part.